

A meeting was held on Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 10:30 am at the Virginia Department of Transportation office building located at 1401 West Broad Street, Richmond Virginia. The following were in attendance:

Gerald McCarthy, CTB, Member, Richmond District; Cord Sterling, CTB Member, Urban at Large; Dana Dickens, CTB Member, Urban at Large; Annie M. Mickens, Mayor City of Petersburg; Jerry Skalsky, Member, Prince George County Board of Supervisors; Kenneth Emerson, Council Member, City of Hopewell; Jason Gray, District Representative and Military Liaison, Congressman J. Randy Forbes; David Canada, City Manager, City of Petersburg; Denny Morris, Executive Director, Crater Planning District; Thomas Hawthorne, Richmond District Administrator, VDOT; Joe Vinsh, Crater Planning District; Tom Fharney, VDOT; March Altman, City of Hopewell; Ron Reekes, City of Petersburg; Richard Walton, Assistant Commissioner VDOT; David Ekern, Commissioner, VDOT; Jeff Nelson, Draper Aden and Associates.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the transportation needs as a result of the BRAC recommendations for Ft. Lee. After introductions, Mayor Mickens welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the CTB members for taking the time to meet with regional representatives. Mr. Jason Gray then relayed the importance of Ft. Lee to the surrounding area in terms of economic impact and to the state in terms of tax base.

Mr. Dennis Morris distributed handouts that contained information concerning the projected timeline for construction at Ft. Lee including the expected personnel increase for the base. Additionally, Mr. Morris described the proposed units transfer coming to Ft. Lee from other regions around the nation. In addition to the information on Ft. Lee, Mr. Morris handed out information on the traffic impact study performed by Michael Baker, Inc. which listed the transportation improvement projects necessary to accommodate the influx of personnel to Ft. Lee.

The discussion then centered on Mr. Cord Sterling's recommendations to review the Environmental Impact Statement as proposed for potential funding through the Department of Army's Road Access (DAR) funding as a means to partially pay for the needed road improvements. Mr. Fahenry discussed his experience with Ft. Belvoir and Quantico and their improvement requirements.

Mr. Morris stated he would review the EIS and examine if additional opportunities existed for funding over and above those previously sought through the DAR, however, it was clear additional funding would be needed to support the improvements outlined in the Michael Baker study. Mr. Morris also commented on a second study underway that would examine a broader geographical range of transportation needs including public transportation requirements for the region in addition to the report prepared by Baker.

Mr. McCarthy closed the meeting by thanking everyone and agreeing to work with local representatives and VDOT to find possible solutions. Mr. McCarthy did caution that funding as presently allocated to the CTB was being used to cover debt and existing projects within the six year improvement plan and that there were few opportunities to add additional projects to that plan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.